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Recommended Citation

Center for Persons With Disabilities, "Brasc Participant Receives Courtside Treatment at Jazz Game" (2009). *Blog Posts*. 11.

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BRASC PARTICIPANT RECEIVES COURTSIDE TREATMENT AT JAZZ GAME

February 10, 2009 by JoLynne Lyon



Kyle Korver signs Cindy's ball.

A big Jazz fan who participates in the Bear River Activity and Skills Center day program was treated to a great game on Monday, Feb. 2. Cindy Ann Jones received some free Utah Jazz tickets and watched from a courtside seat as the team warm up before the game. The players threw the ball around and even signed a basketball for her.

"She's been through a lot with her medical condition, and I think this will give her a lift," said Sherrie Jones, Cindy's mother. Cindy has had 39 major surgeries in her 40-year lifetime. Her condition, spina bifida, is a disorder involving incomplete development of the brain, spinal cord, and/or their protective coverings. It is caused by the failure of the fetus's spine to close properly during the first month of pregnancy.

Lately, foot problems related to Cindy's condition have made it necessary for her to use a wheelchair, so the free tickets put her and a family member in the wheelchair-accessible section.

At the warm-up, the players saw that her feet were bandaged in Jazz colors. They loved it. The players went on to win their game against the Charlotte Bobcats.

The Jazz event all started with a learning exercise at BRASC, the adult day program at the Center for Persons with Disabilities on the Utah State University Campus. One of Cindy's goals is to become more familiar with the Internet. Since she's a fan of the Utah Jazz in general and Andre Kirilenko in particular, it was natural for her to cruise the team's website with staff member Amber Marble, looking for a poster of her favorite player.

That night, Marble secretly sent off an email through the website. She was surprised by a call back the following day. The Jazz gave Cindy free tickets so she could watch them play in person.

"From that day on I was higher than a kite," Cindy said. Not only did she go to the game; she also received a free signed photo of Kirilenko.



Cindy smiles with former Jazz players Pace Mannion and Thurl Bailey.

Skylor Pond contributed to this blog post. He is a recent Utah State University graduate who comes to the CPD through a business partnership with Deseret Industries.